

# Office of the Prime Minister

## Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Peter Russel  
fyi-request-16448-e35a4452@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2021-189

Dear Peter Russel

### Official Information Act request relating to small business financial support

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 19 August 2021. You requested:

*"In approximately the middle of 2020 I watched a press conference where you announced financial support for small businesses. During that conference you stated that small businesses would have until the end of the financial year to apply for that support. Please provide me with full details of this statement, including the date and a transcript of your words."*

We have interpreted your request to refer to the Small Business Cashflow Scheme. On 1 May 2020, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Revenue announced that the Government was providing interest free loans for a year to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 economic shock to support their immediate cashflow needs and meet fixed costs. A media statement on the announcement is available on the Beehive website:

[Government boosts cashflow support for small businesses | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

On 9 November 2020, at the Prime Minister's post Cabinet press conference, the Minister of Finance announced a three-year extension of the Scheme, and a provision of up to two years interest free, to support small businesses as the Government accelerates its economic response to Covid-19. The transcript of this conference is publicly available on the Beehive website: [OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER \(beehive.govt.nz\)](#)

The Prime Minister released a media statement on the announcement, which is publicly available on the Beehive website: [First Cabinet decision supports small business | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

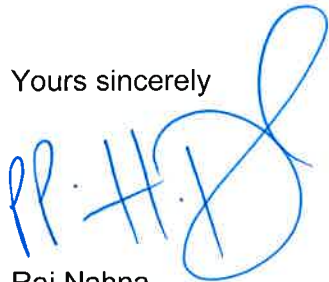
Details on the Scheme, including eligibility are available on the Inland Revenue website:

[COVID-19 Small Business Cashflow Scheme \(SBCS\) \(ird.govt.nz\)](#)

I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is publicly available.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Nahna', written in a cursive style.

Raj Nahna  
**Chief of Staff**